

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1-20 and 22-26 are pending.

Claim 1-20 and 22-25 are rejected.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 9, 14, 20 and 22 are amended.

Claims 2, 3, 11 and 12 are cancelled.

Claim 26 is withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention.

Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims in light of the following remarks.

### ***Drawings***

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the “annular low wall” must be shown or the feature of the invention specified in the claims. No new matter should be entered.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). In this connection, the examiner stated that the “annular low wall” must be shown or the feature cancelled from the claims.

Applicant respectfully submits that the “annular low wall” is indicated by reference numeral 2b, 6b and 7b in Figs. 1, 2 and 3, respectively. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102***

Claims 1, 2, 7, and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Pat. No. JP11-121598 issued to Kadomura et al. (“Kadomura”).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

Claim 1 is amended to include limitations drawn from claims 2 and 3, which are cancelled hereby. Independent claims 20 and 22 are amended to recite similar features.

In the Office Action, the examiner asserted that Kadomura et al. has disclosed “a ceramic plate (13) having a substantially horizontal planar lower surface conforming to and supported by said heating surface (top of 12) but not fastened thereto..., whereby said ceramic plate (13) can be easily placed on and removed from said upper heating surface (top

of 12) of said heater (14, 12).” However, the element denoted by reference numeral 13 in Kadomura et al. merely refers to a ceramic layer, which is provided on the surface of the matrix 12 by a flame spraying method or brazing, and Kadomura does not teach or disclose a ceramic plate *detachable* from the surface of the matrix 12. (Emphasis added)

Also, the examiner asserted that Niori et al. has disclosed wafer support means (53; Figure 10; column 16, lines 45-65) with embedded high-frequency electrodes (30). In contrast, Niori et al. is silent about detachably placing a ceramic plate on the heating surface of the ceramic heater having an electrode for radio frequency power buried therein.

Therefore, Kadomura et al. and Niori et al., either alone or in combination, would not teach or disclose the claimed invention recited in claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable and also claim 22, which recites limitations similar to claim 1, is allowable at least for the reasons discussed above. In addition, claims 7, 23 and 24, which depend from claim 1 or claim 22, are allowable for the dependency and their own merits.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103***

Claims 3-6, 9, 11-16, 19, 20, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pat. No. JP11-121598 issued to Kadomura et al. (“Kadomura”) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,800,618 A issued to Niori; Yusuke et al. (“Niori”).

Claims 8, 10, 17, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pat. No. JP11-121598 issued to Kadomura et al. (“Kadomura”) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,094,885 A issued to Selbrede; Steven C. (“Selbrede”).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

Claim 9 is amended to incorporate the features of claims 11 and 12, which are also cancelled. Claim 4 is amended to depend from the amended claim 1. Claims 5 and 14 are amended into an independent form.

Amended independent claims 9, 20 and 22 have similar features as amended in claim 1, and therefore are in condition for allowance at least for the same reasons with respect to claim 1.

Claims 5 and 14, now in independent form, recite the features shown in the embodiment of Fig. 2, i.e., an electrode for radio frequency power is buried in the ceramic plate, which is detachably placed on heating surface of the heater without being fastened thereto. As discussed above, nowhere does Niori et al. teach or disclose anything that is

comparable to the detachable ceramic plate as set forth in claims 5 and 14. Thus, none of the cited references, either alone or in combination, teach or disclose all of the limitations of claims 5 or 14. Thus, the rejection does not present a prima facie case of obviousness and, accordingly, claims 5 and 14 are in condition for allowance. Other claims are allowable for their dependency as they depend from either one of the above independent claims.

### CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-20 and 22-25 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

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Respectfully submitted,

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